

This is ZOTHIQUE, a journal of experimental variant postal Diplomacy (the Aberration series). Pertinent information is in #38. This is Pandemonium Publication #367, edited and published by Rod Walker, 5058 Hawley Blvd., San Diego CA 92116; telephone (714) 282-1921; member, National Fantasy Fan Federation Games Bureau, NFFFGB Diplomacy Division, International Federation of Wargamers, IFW Diplomacy Society, and for the moment of the so-called "Diplomacy Association".

Zothique 40
21 Aug-
ust '71

COWARD, POLTROON, SHAKER, SQUEAMER

These lines from Ruddigore (all the one-liners introducing the announcements are from Gilbert & Sullivan) have a deeper meaning this time. They and the lines which follow express adequately the character and actions of the dictator of the "Diplomacy Association", John Beshara. At last, at long last, the true extent to which we have all been deceived is coming to light. Many of you will soon see VERITAS VINCIT, written by Larry Peery, the West Coast Membership Chairman for the DA in conjunction with Walt Buchanan, member of the Board of Directors of the DA and others in the DA hierarchy. It is a shocking exposé of the self-serving and self-glorifying motives and actions of Chairman Beshara. Copies will, I imagine, also be available at a nominal cost from Mr. Buchanan (R.R. #3, Lebanon IN 46052). In 25 well-documented pages, drawn from over 200 letters between Chairman Beshara and various people, Mr. Peery tells a story of delusion, double-dealing, totalitarianism, and private animosity fit for any Hitler or Stalin (to whom Mr. Peery aptly compares Chairman Beshara). Whether the Diplomacy Association can yet be saved, and made into an organization which serves postal Diplomacy players and not the pompous ass who presently runs the entire show depends upon whether Beshara has the good sense to resign. "Blockhead, slugard, dullard, creamer, /Shirker, shuffler, crawler, creeper, /Sniffer, snuffler, wailer, weeper, /Earthworm, maggot, tadpole, weevil! /Set upon thy course of evil...."

1970Def -- GOVERNMENT CRISES IN CONSTANTINOPLE, VIENNA; KING ANTONIO ASSUMES ITALIAN THRONE; RUSSIAN RECRUITMENT OFFICES BULGE -- ABERRATION IV

Winter 1905: In F05, the SWEDISH order 10F Nrg-Ice was not reported (although the change in supply center was noted). After F05, ENGLAND retreated SF Bre-Mid. Bob Kinney, having failed to submit a second consecutive set of orders, is replaced by Tony Pandin. This leaves me without replacement players in this game, except John Powell, 808 Lafayette St., Denver CO 80218, who may be interested in a spot. John, if he wishes, should send in S06 orders for both Austria and Turkey, and he will take over the one which misses a second time or, if both, his choice.

AUSTRIA (Andrus?): NRR. GM E 15DA Alb, 7F Gre IAW HR 15. Other units remain at strength. Has: 20DA Tri, 4DA Vie, 20DA Bud.

ENGLAND (Everson): All units ordered up to strength. Has: 10F Mid, 10F Eng, 10A Pic, 10A Hol, 10F Bel, 10F Den, 10F Hel.

FRANCE (Keathley): All units ordered up to strength. Has: 10F Por, 20DA Bre, 20DA Par, 20DA Mar (oh, yes, 9A Mar bec 20DA Mar).

ITALY (~~W. H. H.~~) (Pandin): All units ordered up to strength. Has: 10F CMed, 10A Alg, 20DA Tyo, 20DA Ven, 10A Apu, 10F Ion.

RUSSIA (Gullett): Build 10A Mos. All units ordered up to strength. Has: 10A Mos, 10A Kar, 20DA Mul, 20DA Ber, 10A Lvn.

SWEDEN (Seman): All units ordered up to strength. Has: 20DA War, 10A Rum, 10F Kal, 10F Ska, 20DA Kie, 10F Aal, 10F Ice.

TURKEY (White?): NER. One short next year. Other units remain at strength. Has: 7A Lib, 10A Pal, 9F Bul(sc), 9F Aeg, 10F Rho.

SPRING 1906 ORDERS are still due 7 September 1971.

1971Fed ** Press

NEOSEVASTOPOL (UKRAINE): A recently concluded pact between Ukraine-Byzantium - Israel-Poland-Burgundy-Ireland-Spain set its primary aim at the destruction of Hungary. The King of Sicily could not be reached for this summit meeting; it is suspected he was roaming the streets of Naples stabbing old people and abandoned children in the back.

DIMITRIGRAD (349k. NW of El Boston)(I think)(via Ukraine): Relayed by a diving scientist in between mutterings about "pellucidar", "ape-man", "the dirigible", "earth's core", etc.--Reports of a monster unleashed by the Ukraine against Hungary have been proven false. The owner was asking too high a price for this particular battle-proven giant platypus.

GDANSK (Polish News Service): The first yacht in Poland with a hull made of concrete is under construction in the Central Sailing Centre of the Polish Fleet Sailing Club (PZZ) in Szczecin-Golecin, a suburb of Gdansk. Mechanic Seymour Nfenfedowich, employed in the Centre, is in charge of construction. He hopes to take part in this year's "Gryf Pomorski" Regattas on this concrete yacht. The Regattas, held annually, pit the best sailors of several countries against each other. The course covers many metres and ends in a three-day festival in Denmark. The Yacht will be an imposing boat 13.89 metres in length, 2.9 metres across the bow, and weighing some 4 tons. It will be single-masted with a typical Chinese-type sail. The crew of 67 will have adequately comfortable quarters.

(Via Israel): NOTE: The following are excerpts from the Centennial Edition of The Oggman Papers, the correspondence and diaries of the Oggman family of Charleston, S.C., U.S.A. Explanatory notes concerning the Great European Debacle have been supplied by Dr. Joseph Goebels, Professor of History, Emeritus, of the University of Heidelberg. The notes on flags and coats of arms are by the Late Duke of Saxony.

Jerusalem, Holy Week, 1901. Dearest Papa. Holy Week in Jerusalem! How fortunate I am to witness the celebration of the most renowned execution of history. I have looked forward to this ever since you first took me into the "Pontius Pilate" room at the store with its tales and mementos of history's famous judges. Lady B's* townhouse has a lovely shaded balcony overlooking the Rue de la St. Pierre (Street of the Holy Peter) and we have watched the various processions in luxury. These, in keeping with the highest objectives of our Christian Faith, have been a wonderful display of weaponry and wealth. Monday we viewed the Army under the Patriarch of Jerusalem (flag: white, a cross potent between four X crosslets, all red) as they marched against the Arabs. Tuesday was devoted to the review of the Marine Forces of the Saladin of Cairo, Badouin X (the Scabrous)(flag: plain yellow). They were on their way to join the fleet at Alexandria. Wednesday the contingent of the Knights of the Hospital (flag: a white cross on red) with their grandmaster Sir Harry Flashman, and the Knights of the Temple (flag: a red cross on white) with their grand master Count Grimaldi, marching north, our shield against the Byzantines. Today the Plantagenet of Antioch and his levies passed. Richard XV (the Priapian) was as handsome a man as I have ever seen. Pity about his peculiar preferences. Tomorrow of course will be the magnificent pageant along the broad Rue Doleur, in which His Majesty Solomon Frederick III (the Ageless) will ride beneath the white and gold banner (white, a cross potent between four crosslets, all gold) of the Holy Kingdom. Thinking of

*Lady B, the Countess of Brooklyn, exiled for her part in the plot of 1890 to overthrow Charles V of New England, and Chief European agent for the Cause until her death during the war.

him reminds me of Auntie Vicky*. They were of the same age, believe it or not, and dear Vicky gone, and me on the grand tour of Europe thanks to her generosity. Lady B. and I will light a candle in her memory in the Triple Cathedral of the Holy Sepulchre on Easter Morn (we have tickets to the Pope's Mass in the Cathedral of the Virgin)(Th'only, as it is quaintly referred to by the locals). Your loving daughter, Titty.**

*Victoria, Princess of Hanover, and pretender to the throne of New England. JG.

**Miss Tittalia Oggman, daughter of Sir Harold Oggman, proprietor of Oggman's Bucket of Blood Book Bizarre, Charleston.

Jerusalem, 31 October 1971. Dearest Papa. A few lines to you before I go out for the night. Everyone here is in a happy mood; the simultaneous attacks of Christendom on the pirate strongholds in North Africa have been a success. Spain has Morocco, the Bey of Tunis is in obeisance thanks to Sicily, and the Holy Kingdom has Cyrenaica. Jebel Akhdar, the old Arab name, is to be restored, and plans are afoot to make it the first republic under the Suzerainty of the Holy Kingdom, "The Green Mountain Republic" being its name in English. Its flag of green, gold, and blue stripes has already been carried into Jerusalem by the first Arab volunteers, willing fighters now that they have been freed from the Berber yoke. You chided me in your last letter for going out without a chaperone in a city of the size and reputation of this one. Don't worry, dearest papa; remember, I have poor Cousin Clarence's knife*, the one that he gave to me as a souvenir after those unfortunate episodes in Whitechapel. It never leaves my side. Yours, Titty.

*See "Jack the Ripper--A Royal Duke?" by an anonymous physician. Richmond, 1969. JG.

Dearest Papa. As you know, having already been informed by The Cause, I was privileged to have a private talk with His Majesty Solomon-Frederick. Despite his age, he is still handsome, a certain drawn look about his features adding to, rather than detracting from, his charm. His long black hair and beard, his face, tanned by his many outdoor activities, form a striking contrast to his plain white robe. His only ornaments, on private occasions anyway, are a golden necklace bearing the five golden crosses of the Holy Kingdom pendant upon his breast, and a single gold ring upon the middle finger of his right hand. I remarked about the plainness of this one ring, which has no stone or visible inscription. "Plain it is indeed, yet it has a strange attractiveness. I chanced upon it in my youth while touring the ruins of the Sicilian city of Pompeii, idly kicking at a pile of ash. I noticed the glint of gold. How it came to be there, or what age it can have is not now to be known. Yet I have a feeling that its maker would feel my finger a fitting place for it," was the Emperor's comment. Your loving daughter, Titty.*

*Many of these letters are undated, although this can tentatively be set in November 1901. For the ring of Solomon-Frederick, see the Encyclopedia Glycz. Third Edition (Warsaw, 1968), entry Ring of Solomon-Frederick. RW

ENCYCLOPEDIA GLYCZ. RING OF SOLOMON-FREDERICK. See Solomon-Frederick, Ring of.

SOLOMON-FREDERICK, RING OF. See Frederick (Solomon-Frederick III) Ring of.

FREDERICK (SOLOMON-FREDERICK III), RING OF. See Ring, The RING, THE. See Ring of Solomon-Frederick.*

*We all know what kind of ring this is, don't we? RW